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MGH’s Sally Millar receives AACN award for distinguished career in critical care and informatics nursing

Millar — director, Patient Care Services Informatics, Massachusetts General Hospital — honored for extraordinary contributions to critical care and AACN mission, vision

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. – May 8, 2013 – The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) will present the Marguerite Rodgers Kinney Award for a Distinguished Career to Sally Millar, RN, MBA. She will receive this Visionary Leadership Award for contributions to AACN’s mission and vision at the 2013 National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition, Boston, May 18-23.

Millar has worked at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, for 43 years as a cardiac surgery ICU staff nurse, head nurse in the respiratory-surgical ICU and clinical nurse leader for intensive care nursing. She is currently director of Patient Care Services Informatics, overseeing nursing information systems, the patient and family learning center and the office of patient advocacy. She is recognized for championing true collaboration and authentic leadership throughout her career.

Millar was a pioneer in health informatics, developing systems to quantify patients’ needs for nursing care and using data to establish appropriate levels of care. She also advocates for integrating respect for patient privacy into health information systems and patient safety initiatives.

Her visionary work with acuity and staffing data has helped identify trends, model lengths-of-stay, influence budgeting and staffing levels, conduct research, accurately forecast the needs of new patient care units coming online and improve other essential business functions.

She was editor of “Methods in Critical Care – The AACN Manual,” the world’s first manual of clinical procedures for critical care nurses. She continued as senior editor for the book’s second edition, retitled “AACN Procedure Manual for Critical Care.” Now in its 6th edition, it has been adopted as the gold standard by nearly every critical care unit in the United States and many units in other countries.

As an AACN national board member and 1981 president, herself a graduate of a hospital-based diploma nursing school, Millar passionately advocated for nurses to obtain baccalaureate degrees and helped establish AACN’s scholarship program, a signature initiative that is now supported by an endowment that exceeds $2 million.

Millar is a 20-year member of the Organization of Nurse Leaders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, formerly known as the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives, and served as its 2002-2003 president. She is also a member of the Health Information and Management Systems Society and the Clinical Issues Advisory Council of the Massachusetts Hospital Association.
A graduate of Saint Joseph Hospital School of Nursing, Joliet, Ill., Millar later became one of the first nurses to earn a Master’s of Business Administration degree, when she graduated from Simmons College Graduate School of Management, Boston.

**About the Marguerite Rodgers Kinney Award:** Established in 1997 and named for a past AACN president, the Marguerite Rodgers Kinney Award for a Distinguished Career recognizes extraordinary and distinguished professional contributions that further AACN’s mission and vision of a healthcare system driven by the needs of patients and families where acute and critical care nurses make their optimal contribution. Recipients of this Visionary Leadership Award receive a $1,000 gift to the charity of their choice, lifetime membership in AACN and a crystal replica of the presidential “Vision” icon. Other Visionary Leadership Awards, AACN’s highest honor, include Lifetime Member Award, Honorary Member Award and the GE Healthcare-AACN Pioneering Spirit Award.

**About the National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition:** Established in 1974, AACN’s National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition (NTI) represents the world’s largest educational conference and trade show for nurses who care for acutely and critically ill patients and their families. Bedside nurses, nurse educators, nurse managers, clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners attend NTI.

**About the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses:** Founded in 1969 and based in Aliso Viejo, Calif., the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) is the largest specialty nursing organization in the world. AACN joins together the interests of more than 500,000 acute and critical care nurses and claims more than 235 chapters worldwide. The organization’s vision is to create a healthcare system driven by the needs of patients and their families in which acute and critical care nurses make their optimal contribution.

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